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Federal Agencies

June 17, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 1652**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/306,986; Filed: May 7, 1999  
For: **A Method for Synthesizing a Nucleic Acid Molecule Using a  
Ribonuclease**  
Inventors: Trinh *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4570001/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 along with Exhibits 1-2; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents

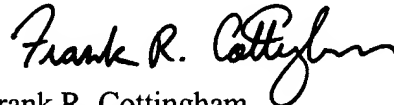
June 17, 2004

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

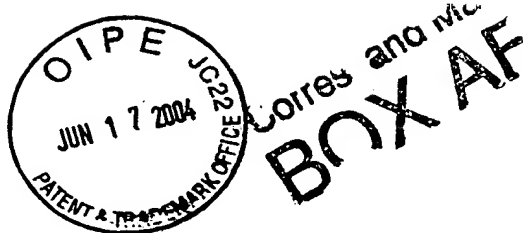
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AF/1652  
IFW

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Expedited Procedure - Art Unit 1652

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

TRINH *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/306,986

Filed: May 7, 1999

For: **A Method for Synthesizing a  
Nucleic Acid Molecule Using a  
Ribonuclease**

Confirmation No.: 4261

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Hutson, R.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4570001/RWE/FRC

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **March 17, 2004**, Applicants submit the following  
Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
  - in ascending order;
  - with status identifiers; and
  - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.